


ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1964



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Divisional Health Offices,
Brogden Street,
Ulverston.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1964.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1961	10,527
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1964	10,370
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,417
Rateable Value	£328,075
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£1305.9204.

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town, the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of anti-biotics and other pharmaceuticals, electrical accessories, and light engineering. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for 1964 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 157 live births registered during 1964, 83 were males of which 3 were illegitimate and 74 were females of which 6 were illegitimate.

Approximately 74% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 63, Vascular lesions of nervous system 48 and Malignant growths, 28. Of the 63 deaths from Heart disease, 54 were due to Coronary Artery disease.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1964	157	15.1	182	17.6	3	18.8	Nil	Nil	3	19.1	1	6.4
1963	146	13.9	185	17.6	3	20.1	Nil	Nil	3	20.5	1	6.8
1962	154	14.7	161	15.4	1	6.5	Nil	Nil	5	32.5	4	26.0
1961	140	13.5	138	13.3	3	21.0	Nil	Nil	1	7.1	Nil	Nil
1960	162	15.6	159	15.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	6.2	1	6.2
1959	142	13.6	158	15.2	1	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Average 5 years 1959-63	-	14.3	-	15.4	-	10.9	-	Nil	-	13.3	-	7.8

Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.09) = 16.5 per 1,000
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.85) = 14.9 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	<u>England and Wales</u>		<u>Ulverston Urban District</u>	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1964	18.4	11.3	16.5	14.9
1963	17.3	12.2	15.2	15.0
1962	18.0	11.9	14.8	13.5
1961	17.4	12.0	13.6	11.4
1960	17.1	11.5	15.7	12.7

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District
Grange-over-Sands Urban District
North Lonsdale Rural District

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate, R.S.I.
Meat and Other Foods Certificate.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The Furness Water Board is now responsible for the provision and maintenance of public water supplies in the Ulverston Urban District. The water supplied to the District is upland surface water which is collected into Pennington reservoir. It is sand filtered, then stored in a service reservoir of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons capacity. Subsequently it is chlorinated before passing into the trunk main for distribution.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity throughout the year. Samples for bacteriological examination are taken by the Furness Water Board and copies of the results are sent to me by the Public Health Laboratory. They were satisfactory.

During the year 45 new houses were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year, 3,405 houses were supplied direct; 6 were supplied by standpipes and 6 from private supplies.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The sewage is screened and disintegrated, then stored and discharged out to sea only on an ebb tide, but storm water overflow is pumped out to sea at any state of the tide. All operations are automatic.

At 31st December, 1964 there were approximately 3,400 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 7,000 fresh water closets.

HOUSING

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the year:-	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
(1) By the local authority	11	Nil
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	34	Nil

(2) Total No. of Council-owned dwellings existing at end of year	1057
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(3) Inspections of dwellings during the year:-

(1) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	117
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	248
(c) No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	38
(2) Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:-	
(a) Demolition Orders have been made (at any time)	52
(b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made	56

(4) Houses Demolished:-

In Clearance Areas:

- (1) Houses unfit for human habitation
- (2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.
- (3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957

Not in Clearance Areas:

- (4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957
- (5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health
- (6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts
- (7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders

<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
Nil	7	6
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
20	4	1
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil

(5) Unfit Houses Closed:-

- (1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957
- (2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957
- (3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957

<u>Number</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
3	2	2
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil

(6) Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:-

- (1) After informal action by local authority
- (2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts
(b) Sections 9 and 16
Housing Act, 1957
- (3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957

(7) Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) :-

(8) Purchase of Houses by Agreement:-

(9) Housing Act, 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958. - Improvement grants, etc.

Action taken during the year:-

(10) House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Standard Grants:-

Action during year:

SPECIAL HOUSING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED

Four of the flats for old people in Soutergate, together with the warden's flat were completed and occupied towards the end of the year. The remainder will be completed early in 1965 and the Council will then have 32 units of special housing accommodation for the aged.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Information regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified in 1964 is given in the table below, together with the numbers notified in the preceding 5 years.

Disease	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Scarlet fever	1	2	0	1	0	8
Measles	139	89	90	23	192	21
Whooping cough	1	3	5	0	12	2
Dysentery	0	4	2	0	1	1
Para-typhoid fever	1	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infection	0	1	0	0	0	0
Food poisoning	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	142	100	97	24	205	32

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no cases of tuberculosis notified during 1964, but one death occurred in a woman aged 81 years.

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Urban District residents during the past 12 years.

Years	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1953	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	6	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	4	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1957	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1958	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1959	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1961	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
1962	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1963	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1964	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 & 1951

In May, an order was obtained for the removal to hospital of a man aged 68 years who was suffering from grave chronic disease and was unable to devote to himself, and was not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention. He died 3 days after admission.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

1964 ANNUAL REPORT

Slum clearance in 1964 was mainly a continuation of previous years' proposals. Brewery Street Clearance Area Compulsory Purchase Order containing 21 houses was confirmed as was also the Ellers area of seven houses; and 20 houses in Green Lane were demolished on completion of re-housing. Three unfit houses were closed and in all nine families comprising 13 persons were re-housed.

Few complaints of defects or unfitness have been received. During the year only 45 houses were found as a result of complaint or inspection where action was necessary and 18 informal and two formal notices were served. Delay in the completion of remedial works is again being experienced due to builders being actively engaged on other building work.

37 Standard Grant applications were received and 36 approved, of which 10 were tenanted houses and 26 owner occupied. Works of improvement were completed at 31 houses in 1964.

The amenities provided were as follows:-

Fixed baths	27
Wash hand basin	27
Hot water supply	26
Water closet within the building	34

Three Discretionary Grants for private houses and one for a Council owned house were approved. Work was completed at five houses which included grants made in previous years.

One Certificate of Disrepair was issued but further notice was required to remedy outstanding defects.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The major part of the above act came into force during 1964. Previous legislation relating to working conditions in offices and shops was shared by the Public Health Acts and successive Shops Acts but altogether did not provide such a compact law as governs employment in factories. Briefly the Local Authorities' responsibilities now cover health (overcrowding, ventilation, etc.,) Welfare (water supplies, sanitary accommodation, first aid); safety; machinery; and written notice of accidents.

The table below shows the number of Registrations and General Inspections.

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during year.	No. of registered premises at end of year.	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	24	24	22
Shops	129	129	96
Wholesale shops, warehouses	2	2	2
Catering Establishments open to public	8	8	3
Fuel Storage	-	-	-
Totals	163	163	123

Total Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises under the Act 182

Analysis of Contraventions

Contraventions in respect of:-

Section 4.		Sec. 15. Eating facilities	3
Cleanliness	15	Sec. 16. Floors, passages, stairs	9
Sec. 5. Overcrowding	1	Sec. 17. Fencing or exposed parts of machinery	Nil
Sec. 6. Temperature	37	Sec. 18. Protection of Young Persons from dangerous machinery	Nil
Sec. 7. Ventilation	10	Sec. 19. Training of persons working at machinery	Nil
Sec. 8. Lighting	Nil	Sec. 23. Prohibition of heavy work	Nil
Sec. 9. Sanitary Conveniences	4	Sec. 24. First aid - general provisions	24
Sec. 10. Washing facilities	35	Total.....	145
Sec. 11. Drinking water	1		
Sec. 12. Accommodation for clothing	1		
Sec. 13. Sitting facilities	3		
Sec. 14. Seats for Sedentary workers	Nil		

Two non-fatal accidents were reported from retail shops. The causation and injuries were such that no further action was considered necessary.

Some delay in complying with the requirements of the act appears to be building up due chiefly to the multiplicity of defects in heating and washing facility requirements. This is particularly noticeable in the case of multiple shops with branches here who report that similar omissions in other establishments throughout the country is holding up work.

Inspections and Supervision of Food

The total number of animals inspected at the Council Public Abattoir was almost 1,000 more than the previous year and is comparable with the peak of 1961. The number of cattle have decreased, which may be due to rising prices, but sheep and particularly pigs (which have shown a $24\frac{1}{2}\%$ increase over the last four years) more than make up for this shortage. It would appear that this trend is likely to continue if the economics of beef production and a national shortage remain as at present.

The percentage of animals infected with disease remain fairly constant and again no tuberculosis was found in beef but two isolated cases of localised tuberculosis in pigs were discovered. A total of 41 carcasses were wholly condemned, (which represents approximately 1 ton 14 cwts of meat) the majority arising as animals having suffered injury or accident previously.

Three bullock carcasses found to be affected by *Cysticercus Bovis* were detained in cold storage for three weeks, in accordance with regulations, before release for sale.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	1385	129	138	4466	2024
Number inspected	1385	129	138	4466	2024
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	3	9	24	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	45	7	Nil	10	20
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	3.2%	7.7%	6.5%	0.8%	1.2%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Percentage of numbers infected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	.09%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Inspection of Food Premises

All shops, cafes, etc., were visited during July to examine stocks of corned beef following the Ministry of Health directive at the time of the typhoid outbreak in Aberdeen. 32, six lb tins with the embossed code number of the suspected packing factory were found and withdrawn from sale. One out of four tins discovered in this consignment with defective seals was sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination but the contents were found to be satisfactory except for some surface decomposition.

Altogether 313 visits of inspection have been made to food premises. Ten notices were sent to proprietors of establishments notifying them of contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations but as the necessary works were carried out without delay no further action was taken. Certain improvements to some food shops have been initiated as a result of the new Shops Act which will result in better standards of hygiene and working conditions.

From the 32 houses originally registered for picking shrimps 10 now remain on the register and of those only one or two are used regularly. 32 visits of inspection were made and on three occasions the actual process of shrimp picking was observed.

53 lbs of meat from butchers shops was surrendered as being unfit for consumption as well as 345 lbs of tinned fruit and vegetables, etc., from other food establishments.

Milk Sampling

Routine milk sampling and the investigation of Brucella organisms in milk was continued from previous years. 34 bulk samples were examined and as a result individual samples of milk from each of the cows from three herds were submitted for further investigation. At one farm the suspected cow was removed from the herd and subsequently slaughtered, and at the second farm three cows found to be positive to the Brucella test were segregated and the milk sent for pasteurisation. In order to maintain a degree of control in the milk supply from these three farms arrangements were made to take milk samples from all newly calved cows and new cows introduced into the herds before permitting this milk to be used for retail sale. Further sampling on these lines continued throughout the year but it became necessary to initiate further individual cow sampling from the third herd on an apparent break down in the system being employed. Sampling on this system will be carried out on into 1965 but it is open to doubt whether complete control over the milk quality will eventually be established or whether further restrictions on raw milk sales may be necessary.

The following table shows the breakup of this sampling:--

	<u>No. taken</u>	<u>Brucella Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>No Result</u>
<u>Bulk milk sampling</u>	34	5	29	Nil
<u>Individual cow samples</u>	168	17	146	5

34 other samples of milk were submitted for analysis and of these, four failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test for cleanliness. Visits to the farm were carried out by Ministry Officials and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

Rodent Control

741 premises were inspected for the presence of rats or mice and 378 were found to have infestations, all of a minor nature.

1266 inspections and re-visits were made during the treatments. Contracts for the control of vermin are still maintained on farm lands and most industrial premises whilst other traders have arranged for periodical inspections and any necessary action without prior notification. The anti-coagulant poison, Warfarin, has been used almost solely for controlling rats and mice and in addition to being most effective is relatively harmless to human beings and domestic animals.

Sewer baiting on two occasions during the year revealed only a very slight rat infestation at one part of the town and this was treated with very satisfactory results.

29 Council dwellings and 13 private dwellings were disinfested because of insects, mainly ants or cockroaches, and occasionally wasps nests, which had become a serious nuisance.

J.K. YATES.

Public Health Inspector.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the year 1964 for the Ulverston
Urban District in the County of Lancashire.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

<u>Premises</u>	Number on Register	Number of		
		<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	3	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	69	125	10	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	71	128	10	-

2 - Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	Found	Remedied	<u>Referred</u>	
			<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness (S1)	4	4	1	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	4	-	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10	8	1	1

Part VIlll of the ActParticulars under Sections 133 and 134

No. of outworkers in August list Nil

No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council Nil

